

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1122

As Passed Senate, March 1, 2022

Title: An act relating to the retirement age for state guard members.

Brief Description: Concerning the retirement age for state guard members.

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Klippert, Ryu, Goodman, MacEwen and Orwall.

Brief History: Passed House: 1/12/22, 95-0.

Committee Activity: State Government & Elections: 3/19/21, 3/24/21 [DP]; 2/09/22, 2/16/22 [DP].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 3/1/22, 47-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the age restriction for enlistment with the Washington State Guard (Guard).
- Allows the adjutant general to extend the service age of an active member of the Guard under certain conditions.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Hunt, Chair; Kuderer, Vice Chair; Wilson, J., Ranking Member; Hasegawa.

Staff: Melissa Van Gorkom (786-7491)

Background: The Washington State Guard (Guard) is a volunteer military unit organized under the Washington State Military Department and serving under the direction of the state's adjutant general. Guard members are available to serve the Governor in place of the National Guard if the National Guard in Washington is called into federal service. The

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Governor may also call the Guard into state service in other instances, including natural disasters, search and rescue, or recovery operations.

The period of enlistment in the Guard is set by rules adopted by the adjutant general. The term of service for an original enlistment must be completed before the applicant reaches age 64. The adjutant general may extend the service age upon request by an active member of the Guard if the adjutant general determines the member's extension would be in the best interest of the Guard. Extensions are for one year and may be renewed until the member reaches age 68.

Summary of Bill: The age limit for enlistment to the Guard is eliminated. The adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee, has full discretion to decide the period of enlistment for Guard members and may extend a Guard member's service age beyond age 64 upon request of an active member of the Guard. Extensions may be granted for a two-year period if:

- the member is physically and mentally capable of completing all assigned mission tasks; and
- the Washington State Guard Officer Review Board recommends the extension.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Regular Session 2022): PRO: This is a simple but significant piece of legislation. It would extend the retirement age for our Guard members and would expand the pool of brave men and women on hand to serve the state. On March 22, 2014 a mudslide occurred in Oso and over 100 agencies responded and the Guard was one of those agencies. They provide professional service to our state. I am a retired army officer and would still like to serve. There are many people who are capable of serving as a force multiplier for the National Guard and can bring different expertise and leadership that may be needed to the Guard.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative John Lovick, Prime Sponsor; Peter Lukevich, 13500 Lake City Way NE.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.